

Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC) Community Assistance Program

Application Packet

Dear NROC Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in NROC (Natural Resources Outreach Coalition). NROC is a collaboration between state, regional, and non-profit organizations, and is supported by the participating organizations and funding through the NH Estuaries Program and NH OSP's Coastal Program.

Enclosed is an informational brochure describing NROC, an application form, *Working with NROC* fact sheet, and a listing of the communities located in the coastal watersheds. NROC assistance is currently limited to communities in the coastal watersheds. Please check the listing to see if your community is in one of the coastal watersheds.

- Applicants for NROC assistance can include single communities, multiple adjacent communities, and regional conservation groups. We recommend you involve municipal boards and other local groups (e.g. open space committee) in providing information for this application.
- NROC works with up to three communities a year. Selection can be competitive. Applicants are selected based on a community's readiness to start working on natural resource-based planning strategies, and a willingness to participate by all municipal boards and other local decision makers.

Please note: Through this program, the NROC team does not prepare conservation plans, conduct natural resources inventories or write regulations. The NROC team provides technical support, educational workshops (as needed), assistance developing an action plan to implement natural resource-based planning strategies, and directs the community to sources of financial assistance.

If you need assistance completing the application form, or would like other information about NROC assistance, please call the NROC Coordinator, Amanda Stone (see contact details below).

We look forward to hearing from you!.

Amanda Stone

Amanda Stone
NROC Coordinator
Community Conservation Assistance Program
UNH Cooperative Extension
36 County Drive
Laconia, NH 03246
Tel: 364-5324
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Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC)

Application Form

Town or Regional Conservation Group:

Name of primary applicant:

(conservation commission, open space group, conservation group, etc.)

Name of primary contact person:

Mailing Address:

Phone: (Day):

(Evening):

E-mail:

1. Describe your community's primary concerns and needs (provide details in the space below, or on a separate sheet):

- ☐ Open Space Protection
- ☐ Wildlife Habitat Conservation
- ☐ Water Resources Protection (quality and quantity)
- ☐ Farmland Preservation
- ☐ Wetland Protection
- ☐ Managing Suburban Sprawl
- ☐ Subdivision Design
- ☐ Zoning
- ☐ Other (please describe in the space below)

2. How do you think your community/conservation group would benefit from the NROC program (what would you like to get out of it)? (Use a separate sheet if necessary)

3. List the existing natural resources-based information that your community already has, and give dates of completion:

- ☐ Natural resources section in master plan (give date of last master plan update)
- ☐ Natural resources inventory (give date of last update)
- ☐ Natural resource protection ordinances (e.g. Wetlands or watershed protection ordinances)
- ☐ Resource protection oriented overlay zoning district (specify which resources):
- ☐ Open space plan
- ☐ Conservation plan
- ☐ Wetland inventory/evaluation
- ☐ Forest management plan
- ☐ Other (describe below):

4. Please describe current (in progress) natural resource protection efforts in your community needs (provide details in the space below, or on a separate sheet)::

- ☐ Master Plan Update
- ☐ Open Space Plan
- ☐ Conservation Plan
- ☐ Natural Resources Inventory
- ☐ Water Resources Protection
- ☐ Land Protection
- ☐ Bond Allocation
- ☐ Other (please describe in the space below):

5. NROC typically holds an initial feasibility meeting with representatives from all municipal boards and other interested community groups. Please list community boards and other groups in support of this application with a contact name (chairperson) for each, e.g. conservation commission, planning board, city council, open space group, ad hoc committee, etc.:

6. Expected time frame: It typically takes the NROC team three months to prepare the introductory presentation and followup with the community. When do you think you would want to host the presentation?

7. How did you hear about the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC)

- ☐ From another community (which one?)
- ☐ Newspaper article
- ☐ NROC flyer
- ☐ Other:

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM TO:

**Amanda Stone
NROC Coordinator
UNH Cooperative Extension
36 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246**

tel: 364-5324 fax: 364-2456 e-mail: amanda.stone@unh.edu

Working with NROC Community Responsibilities

Applicants for NROC assistance must be ready to begin working on natural resource based planning when the application is submitted. The NROC team will need assistance from community members to prepare for the customized presentation and follow-up meetings. Specific community responsibilities include:

- 1. Attend initial meeting between NROC staff and community representatives to discuss the NROC *Dealing with Growth* program (presentation and follow-up) and to discuss local issues.**
- 2. Develop a small work group with representation from two or more municipal boards to work with the NROC team to develop the *Dealing with Growth* presentation (which is customized to your community/conservation group) and plan the follow-up. Involving your community's land use decision makers is key to the program's success.**
- 3. Select dates and meeting facilities for the presentation and followup meeting one week later.**
- 4. Publicize the Presentation**
 - Invite town or city officials (including select board, planning board, ZBA, conservation commission), and other local organizations via letters of invitation.
 - Invite members of the public (newspaper articles, notices in public places, letters, phone calls).
 - Publicize the event.
 - Follow letter invitations with phone calls.
- 5. Provide Information for Presentation**
 - Photographs (e.g. scenic views, open spaces, downtown, new developments, town hall, schools, parks, important local resources, etc.), preferably in digital format (hard copies are also acceptable). Digital images should be in .tif or jpeg format.
 - Other local information that would enhance the presentation, e.g. where does the town get it's drinking water?
- 6. Review and Comment on Presentation.**

Input will be sought during the development of the presentation, plus a meeting of the work group to review the final presentation.
- 7. Attend Presentation**
- 8. Host follow-up meeting to begin developing an action plan**

The follow-up team should involve all boards, and interested presentation participants.